

NEWCASTLE EMLYN RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Sanitary Conditions of the
Newcastle Emlyn Rural District
for the Year
1961



BY

ELFYN T. JONES

B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

PREFACE

To the Chairman and Members of the Newcastle Emlyn Rural District Council :

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1961.

The health of the population remained at a satisfactory level throughout the year, and it is again pleasing to record that no case of Diphtheria, Food Poisoning or Poliomyelitis occurred.

I must emphasise that the continued freedom from Diphtheria and Poliomyelitis will depend upon the state of immunity of the population, and I would therefore urge that the general public take advantage of the facilities offered for protection against these infectious diseases.

Whereas Regulations help in preventing Food Poisoning the real defence is in a high standard of personal hygiene among those handling food products.

Members of the Council are aware of difficulties which from time to time arise from shortage of water, and it is obvious that the time has arrived when serious consideration must be given to the augmentation of the present public supplies.

I wish to gratefully acknowledge the work carried out by my staff and to thank the Members of the Public Health Committee and the Council for the whole-hearted manner in which they have supported me.

I also wish to thank my colleagues and their staff for their continued support and help.

I am Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ELFYN T. JONES,

Medical Officer of Health.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Clerk of the Council and Chief Financial Officer ... S. J. DAVIES

Medical Officer of Health Dr. ELFYN T. JONES, B.SC.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Official Address and telephone number of the Medical Officer of Health :

Public Health Department, 3, Spilman Street, Carmarthen.

Telephone Number : Carmarthen 6676/7/8.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector ... J. G. ROWLANDS

Deputy Clerk of the Council W. D. DAVIES

Assistant Surveyor E. L. THOMAS

Rate Collector E. D. JONES

Consultant Architect W. S. P. COTTRELL

Consultant Engineers MESSRS. J. OWEN PARRY, LEWIS
& PARTNERS.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The Newcastle Emlyn Rural District, a large portion of which lies in the beautiful Vale of Teify, covers an area of 82,842 acres, and extends from Cenarth in the eastern extremity to Llanyerwys in the north-west. The district is divided into eight Parishes, viz. : Cenarth, Llangeler, Llanfihangel-ar-Arth, Llanllwni, Llanfihangel Rhos-y-Corn, Llanybyther, Llanyerwys and Pencarreg. As expected in a rural area of this nature farming is the basic industry, with the emphasis on dairy farming.

The mid-year home population as estimated by the Registrar-General for 1961 is 8,190.

For Registration purposes the area is divided into the following two Registration Sub-Districts :—

Cenarth
Llanybyther

The Rateable value of the area is £39,015, the sum represented by a Penny Rate £147 and the number of inhabited houses at the end of the year according to the Rate Book is 2,928.

Public Swimming Baths :

There are no public swimming baths in the area of the rural district.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births :

				Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	52	40	92
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	4	5
				—	—	—
				53	44	97
				—	—	—

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated home population ... 11.84

Still-births :

				Males	Females	Total
Still-births	...	...	...	1	1	2
Still-birth rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births	...					20.20
Still-birth rate per 1,000 home population	...					0.24

Deaths :

				Males	Females	Total
Deaths	...	...	...	64	52	116
Death rate per 1,000 estimated home population	...					14.16

**CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH
ACCORDING TO DISEASES 1961**

<i>Causes of Death</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	—	6
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	3	8
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	9	16
Coronary disease, angina	16	7	23
Hypertension with heart disease	2	1	3
Other heart disease	8	12	20
Other circulatory disease	4	1	5
Bronchitis	4	3	7
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	5	7
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1
All other accidents	1	3	4
Suicide	—	1	1
Total	64	52	116

Infant Mortality :

Deaths of infants under one year of age 3
(Males 1 ; Females 2)

The three deaths recorded above occurred in infants under four weeks of age—in actual fact two of the deaths occurred in infants who were under one week of age.

Live births during the year (Legitimate and Illegitimate)	97
Death rate of all infants per 1,000 live births	30.93
Death rate of Legitimate infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births	32.61
Death rate of Illegitimate infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births	0.00

Causes of Infant Deaths :

Mongolism	1
Prematurity	2

Ages at which Infant Deaths occurred :

Under 1 day	2
2 weeks	1

Maternal Deaths :

No maternal deaths occurred during the year.

Deaths from Cancer :

During the year twenty persons died from cancer.

The age groups affected are as follows :—

35—40 years	...	...	...	...	1
40—45 years	...	...	...	...	2
45—50 years	...	...	...	...	3
55—60 years	...	...	...	...	2
60—65 years	...	...	...	...	2
65—70 years	...	...	...	...	4
70—75 years	...	...	...	...	4
75 and over	...	...	...	...	2 (20)

Parts of the Body Involved :

				No. of Cases		
			M.	F.	Total	
Malignant neoplasm—stomach	...	...	6	—	6	
Malignant neoplasm—lungs, bronchus	...	...	2	—	2	
Malignant neoplasm—breast	...	...	—	2	2	
Malignant neoplasm—uterus	...	...	—	2	2	
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms			5	3	8	
						—
						20
						—

Deaths from Tuberculosis :

No deaths from tuberculosis occurred during the year.

NEW CASES OF, AND MORTALITY FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1961

<i>Age Period in Years</i>			<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
			<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>		<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>	
			<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0—1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	...	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65—75	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75 and over	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER—NOTIFICATIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>		<i>Totals</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Number of cases on the Register, 1/1/61	20	16	1	5	21	21
Number of cases notified for the first time during the year	1	2	—	—	1	2
Number of transfers from other areas during the year	1	1	—	—	1	1
Number of cases removed from the Register during the year	3	—	—	2	3	2
Number of cases remaining on the Register as at 31/12/61	19	19	1	3	20	22

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Hospital, Laboratory and Ambulance Facilities :

The district is served mainly by the West Wales General Hospital, Carmarthen and Cardigan Hospital, with provision for cases of infectious diseases at the West Wales Isolation Hospital, Upper Tumble, Nr. Llanelly. Cases of mental disease receive treatment at St. David's Hospital, Carmarthen. The nearest treatment centre for venereal diseases is at Llanelly.

Bacteriological and pathological investigations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory and the Pathological Department at the West Wales General Hospital, Glangwili, Carmarthen, and the resources of these laboratories are always available to medical practitioners.

Ambulance facilities, including facilities for the transport of sitting car cases, are under the control of the County Council.

Home Nursing Services :

The area is served by :

(a) Three District Nurses under arrangements made by the County Council with District Nursing Associations, viz. : Llanybyther, Velindre and Newcastle Emlyn.

(b) One District Nurse in the direct employ of the County Council at Pencader.

The District Nurses also undertake the midwifery work in their areas.

Infant Welfare Centres :

There are three Infant Welfare Centres in the area—Llanybyther, Pencader and Velindre.

Ante-Natal Clinics :

There are no Ante-Natal Clinics in the area.

National Assistance Acts, 1948 to 1951 :

Section 47 of the 1948 Act.

This section, as amended in 1951, gives power to remove compulsorily to hospital or Part III accommodation persons in need of care and attention, which they are unable to provide for themselves and which they are not receiving from other persons.

No Order was made under this section during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The Council's Surveyor reports as follows on the position at the end of the year 1961 with regard to Water Supply also Drainage and Sewerage :

Water Supply

"The general picture remains the same and no new large schemes were brought into operation. Several small extensions were carried out viz :

Dolhaidd, Newcastle Emlyn ; Parcadda, Llanybyther ; Blaenblodau/Talog, Llanfihangel-ar-Arth ; Pentalardd, Maesyerngiau ; New Council Houses, Rhydeymerau ; Blaenddol, Rhydeymerau.

A further 76 properties were connected to the Council's mains. These connections together with the small extensions referred to above all tend to put an extra burden on an existing limited supply and if this additional demand is imposed year by year without augmenting the amount of water produced and harnessed, we could be faced with the problem of the demand exceeding the supply. If we are to maintain a constant supply throughout the year, it is important that we bear in mind the need for building up greater reserves.

The spring and early summer of 1961 were exceptionally dry and this fact brought in its wake the resultant problem of springs considerably reducing their yield. Several areas suffered acutely, particularly the Pencader and Pentrecourt districts. It is hoped that by the end of 1962 an augmentation scheme at Alltwalis will considerably relieve the problem in the upper reaches of Pencader.

During the year the following samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination :—

Private Supply :	No. of samples taken	...	20
	No. of samples unsatisfactory		13
	No. of samples satisfactory		7

In the case of the unsatisfactory samples the persons concerned were advised as to remedial measures and subsequent resampling in several instances showed improved results.

Public Supplies :	No. of samples taken	...	15
	No. of samples unsatisfactory		8
	No. of samples satisfactory		7

Several of the samples taken which proved unsatisfactory were taken directly from a stream and were examined prior to chlorination. All stream supplies—namely at Clynperffaith and Llangeler are adequately treated by chlorination prior to distribution. The object of examination before treatment was to assess primarily the degree of contamination.

In two instances the unsatisfactory results obtained from public supplies were due to temporary breakdown in treatment and re-sampling showed that remedial works carried out had been effective.

Drainage and Sewerage

The three main sewerage schemes in the Council's area, viz. at Llanybyther, Cwmanne and Pencader continued to function satisfactorily. Progress on the Llandyssul/Pontwelly joint sewerage scheme has been rather slow, but this scheme should be in operation in early 1962.

The next scheme contemplated by the Council at Drefach, Velindre has been prepared and has been investigated by the Engineering Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The scheme has been approved in principle by the Ministry and it is hoped that we will be in a position to ask for tenders some time in 1962.

A scheme has also been prepared for Pentrecourt and it is hoped that this will be operational some time in 1962."

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958 :

Housing (House Purchase & Housing) Act, 1959 :

During the year the implementation of the Discretionary Grants Scheme continued to operate satisfactorily, and thirty-six applications were approved by the Council.

Twelve applications for Standard Grants received approval.

Rent Act, 1957 :

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair :

Number of applications for Certificates ... NIL

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

As mentioned in my 1960 Annual Report refuse collection is carried out by direct labour, collections varying from once weekly in large villages to once monthly in the more remote parts of the rural area. Two Sites are used for the disposal of refuse, namely at Treale and Llanllwni mountain, the latter being a controlled tip.

SCHOOLS

The Local Education Authority is the County Council. There are 19 Primary Schools within the Rural area.

No schools within the area were closed on account of infectious diseases during 1961.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cases of Infectious and other Notifiable Diseases which occurred during 1961—classified in Age Groups :—

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Number of Cases Notified at Ages—Years</i>								<i>Total Cases</i>	<i>Number of Cases removed to Isolation Hospital or Sanatorium</i>
	<i>Under 1 year</i>	<i>1 and under 5 years</i>	<i>5 and under 15 years</i>	<i>15 and under 25 years</i>	<i>25 and under 45 years</i>	<i>45 and under 65 years</i>	<i>65 and upwards</i>	<i>Age un-known</i>		
Whooping Cough ...	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Measles ...	2	11	11	1	—	—	—	—	25	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Tuberculosis :										
Respiratory ...	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	3	2
Totals ...	3	13	15	1	—	2	—	—	34	2

Distribution of the above Cases into Parishes :—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Measles</i>	<i>Pneumonia</i>	<i>Respiratory Tubercu- losis</i>
Cenarth	5	11	1	—
Llangelor	—	11	—	1
Llanfihangel-ar-Arth	—	—	—	2
Llanyerwys	—	2	—	—
Pencarreg	—	1	—	—

IMMUNISATION

The following statistics have been received from the County Medical Officer of Health (the County Council being the Local Health Authority) relative to children in the Rural District immunised during the year :—

	<i>Primary Immunisation</i>	
	<i>Children under 5 years</i>	<i>Children 5—14 years</i>
Diphtheria only	35	9
Diphtheria/Whooping Cough	31	—
Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/Tetanus	10	—
Whooping Cough only	23	—

Number of children who received “Booster” doses ... 41.

I should like once more to stress upon parents the need for the continued immunisation of all children, especially against Diphtheria, and that they receive “boosting” doses at five yearly intervals.

VACCINATION

Statistics relating to vaccination against Poliomyelitis, for the County as a whole, given by the County Medical Officer of Health are as follows :—

<i>Group</i>	<i>Number who received two injections during 1961</i>	<i>Number who received one injection during 1961</i>
Children born in the years 1943—1961	3,468	500
Persons born in the years 1933—1942	1,843	—
Persons born before 1933 and under 40 years of age	3,291	—
Expectant Mothers	199	—
Others	—	100

In addition, during the year, 8,478 persons received their third injection, and 6,467 received their fourth injection.

Although it is not claimed that vaccination against this disease will guarantee complete immunity it is quite certain that a high percentage of vaccinated persons will develop complete immunity and I would therefore advise all those eligible to have this protection.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT AND REGULATIONS

The Food and Drugs Authority for the area is the County Council. Mr. D. R. Watkins, Chief Inspector of the County Council, reports as follows on work done during the year in the area of the Newcastle Emlyn Rural District under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 and the various Regulations and Orders made thereunder :—

Total number of samples submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis ...	85
Informal samples of milk tested at this office	162
Alcoholic spirits tested on licensed premises	4
Milk samples sent to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination	162
	<hr/> 413 <hr/>

Milk samples submitted to the Public Analyst

Number of samples submitted	61
Certified genuine	51
Deficient in Non-fatty-solids but otherwise genuine	5
Deficient in Fat	4
Deficient in both Fat and Non-fatty-solids	1

The only action considered necessary in respect of the unsatisfactory samples was to notify the suppliers of the deficiencies and to instruct them to take great care in handling the milk and to make every possible effort to improve the compositional quality.

Informal Samples of Milk

The following are particulars relating to the results of tests carried out at this office on samples of milk taken at schools and other establishments :—

Number of samples tested	162
Number found to be genuine	150
Deficient in Fat	8
Deficient in Non-fatty-solids	2
Deficient in both Fat and Non-fatty-solids	2

Miscellaneous articles of Food and Drugs

Number of samples submitted to the Public Analyst ...	24
Number reported to be genuine	23
Number reported to be unsatisfactory	1

The unsatisfactory sample consisted of a bottle of Orange Drink which was found by the Public Analyst to be deficient in fruit content. In view of the fact that the standard of quality for this particular type of soft drink is not stipulated clearly in the Regulations, it was considered inadvisable to take legal action.

Alcoholic Spirits

Four samples of alcoholic spirits were tested by officers of the department on licensed premises and all were found to be genuine.

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960

Eight samples of Tuberculin Tested (Raw) Milk taken from licensed milk-dealers were reported to have satisfied the prescribed test for keeping quality and bacteriological cleanliness.

Milk supplied to schools

The results of the bacteriological tests on milk samples taken at schools were as follows :—

Satisfactory	...	...	123
Unsatisfactory	...	...	28
Tests void	...	...	3
			<hr/>
			154
			<hr/>

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Record of Visits for 1961 :—

General Sanitation

Nature of Visit or Inspection					No. of Visits
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	96
Drainage	...	...	...	...	84
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	—
Tents, Vans, Sheds	...	...	...	...	14
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	—
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	12
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	24
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	14
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	6
Schools	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	...	102

Housing

Under Public Health Acts

Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	12
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	28

Under Housing Acts

Number of Houses inspected	...	...	...	13
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	15

Overcrowding

Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	Nil
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	Nil

Verminous Premises

Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	Nil
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	Nil

Miscellaneous housing visits	3
------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

Infectious Diseases

Inquiries in cases of Infectious Diseases	...	...	2
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	...	...	Nil
Number of rooms disinfected	...	...	Nil

Meat and Food Inspection

Inspection of Meat and Meat Shops

Number of Slaughterhouses in area	...	...	1
Number of visits to above Slaughterhouses		...	7
Number of visits to Shops and Stalls	...	...	36
Number of visits to Butchers	...	...	18

Ice-Cream

There are thirty-six ice-cream retailers in the rural area and they sell pre-packed ice-cream supplied by nationally known manufacturers.

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Forty-eight visits were made by the Public Health Inspector to food premises within the area, and every effort is being made to maintain, with the co-operation of the occupiers concerned, the highest standard of food hygiene.

Foodstuffs condemned by the Public Health Inspector at Shops, etc.
(excluding the Slaughterhouse)

Tinned Meat Products	...	...	34 tins
Various other tinned foods	...	...	18 tins
Cooked Ham	...	...	44 lbs.
Sausages	...	...	23 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	12 lbs.
Dried Egg	...	...	13 lbs.
Flour	...	...	34 lbs.

Condemned foodstuffs are disposed of by burial on the Council's Refuse Disposal Sites.

HOUSING

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year					<i>No. of Houses</i>
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	2
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	6
(2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	4
(3) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respect reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	48

Houses Demolished

In Clearance Areas	...	...	...	Nil
Not in Clearance Areas	...	...	...	Nil

Unfit Houses Closed

Under Sects. 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	4
Under Sects. 17(3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	...	...	Nil

Unfit Houses made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied

After informal action by local authority :—

By Owner ... Nil

After formal notice under Public Health Acts :

(a) By Owner Nil

(b) By Local Authority ... Nil

After formal notice under Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957 :

(a) By Owner ... Nil

(b) By Local Authority ... Nil

Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957

By Owner ... Nil

The Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations (Appointed Day—No. 4) Order, 1961

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations (Appointed Day—No. 4) Order, 1961

Newcastle Emlyn Rural District is among the local authority areas where the above Orders, made by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, become fully effective on 1st January, 1962. After that date it will be an offence for butchers to slaughter animals in private slaughterhouses which are not up to the required standard.

In my Annual Report for year 1960 I stated that the owners of two slaughterhouses intended bringing their premises up to standard and of the possibility of a third new one being constructed. However, alterations to one slaughterhouse only has been proceeded with and this is the sole slaughterhouse which will in future function in the area. This slaughterhouse is situated at Llanybyther, and it is expected that the necessary reconstruction work will be completed early in the coming year.

Meat Inspection

The following animals were examined during the year :

No. of Cattle (excluding Cows)	...	...	Nil
No. of Cows	...	...	Nil
No. of Calves	...	...	Nil
No. of Sheep and Lambs	...	...	80
No. of Pigs	...	...	Nil
No. of Horses	...	...	Nil

Details of Meat Condemned

13 pounds of Liver ... Distomatosis

Administration of the Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959

Duties of the Sanitary Authority under the Factories Acts have been carried out by the Public Health Inspector as part of his routine work, and a close liaison has been maintained with the District Inspector of Factories.

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	57	8	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	59	8	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which defects were found ... Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Section 110 & 111)

The return required under Part VIII of the Act is ... Nil.

